



2017 AUGUST CALENDAR

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION

Visitor Services Supervisor: Nick Wisniewski Park Phone Number: 978-464-2987

Visitor Center located at: 345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA 01541

All programs are free and open to the public, however there is a \$5 fee to drive to the summit (\$10 for non-MA vehicles.)

Reasonable accommodations available upon request. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Outdoor programs will not run (or may be held in the Visitor Center) if there is heavy rain or thunderstorms. Minimum 2 attendees for programs to run. Check program description for meeting location. Programs subject to change. Call park or visit

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/wachusett-mountain-state-reservation.html> for more information.

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Walk A Lot Here Beginners 6:00pm – 7:30pm	3 Get Tracking! Solving Animal Mysteries 1:30pm-3:30pm	4 Kidleidoscope 10:00 – 11:00am	5 <u>Weekend Summit Series:</u> The Forest Before Us 10:00 – 10:45am Wild! Life on the Mountain 11:00 – 11:45am Great Hill Detectives 12:30 – 1:15pm A “Peak” Back in Time 1:30 - 2:15pm
6 <u>Weekend Summit Series:</u> The Forest Before Us 10:00 – 10:45am Wild! Life on the Mountain 11:00 – 11:45am Great Hill Detectives 12:30 – 1:15pm A “Peak” Back in Time 1:30 - 2:15pm	7	8	9 Walk A Lot Here Beginners 6:00pm – 7:30pm	10 Get Tracking! Solving Animal Mysteries 1:30pm-3:30pm	11 Kidleidoscope 10:00 – 11:00am	12 <u>Special Event:</u> Smokey Bear Birthday Celebration 10:00am – 2:00pm
13 <u>Weekend Summit Series:</u> The Forest Before Us 10:00 – 10:45am Wild! Life on the Mountain 11:00 – 11:45am Great Hill Detectives 12:30 – 1:15pm A “Peak” Back in Time 1:30 - 2:15pm	14	15	16 Walk A Lot Here Beginners 6:00pm – 7:30pm	17 Get Tracking! Solving Animal Mysteries 1:30pm-3:30pm	18 Kidleidoscope 10:00 – 11:00am	19 <u>Special Event:</u> “Big Trees & Old Growth” presentation 6:00pm – 8:00pm <u>Weekend Summit Series:</u> The Forest Before Us 10:00 – 10:45am Wild! Life on the Mountain

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VISITOR CENTER AND SUMMIT PARKWAY

Visitor Center Hours Opens daily at 8:00am Closes at 5:30pm <i>(Please note: closing times may vary.)</i>	<p>The Visitor Center highlights the story of Wachusett Mountain through exhibits focused on natural history and features of the mountain.</p> <p>A limited number of Discovery Backpacks are available to borrow while you visit the park. These contain fun and educational items to help families with children discover nature while hiking. Inquire at the Information Desk when you arrive if interested.</p> <p>The Visitor Center is wheelchair accessible. Free admission. Guided tours are available for groups with advance notice.</p>
Summit Parkway	<p>The road to top of the mountain is open daily (through October 29) from 9:00am to sunset. There is a \$5 fee to access the road to the summit (\$10 for non-Massachusetts vehicles).</p>

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

<p>Walk A Lot Here: Beginners</p> <p><i>(A fitness hiking program.)</i></p>	<p>If you're new to hiking or want to explore the different trails of Wachusett Mountain as part of a guided group, this program may be for you! Guided by the Park Interpreter, the program introduces beginners to the joy of hiking. A different route is explored each week, and some hikes are more strenuous than others. You will have the chance to experience the challenge of steep terrain and rocky trails or the ease of gentler slopes and unpaved roads, depending on our route. Most routes involve walking over rocks and roots as well as going uphill, occasionally steeply. Hikes are approximately 1 hour and cover 1.5 to 2 miles, depending on terrain. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes, and bring water. Bring insect repellent if you choose. <i>This program is for adults.</i> Meet at the Visitor Center. From the Visitor Center we will travel in our individual vehicles to the trailhead for that day's hike. Hike routes will vary. Call for information and weather cancellations.</p>
<p>KIDleidoscope</p> <p><i>(An indoor/ outdoor activity for young children.)</i></p>	<p>Join us for this fun, hands-on, outdoor experience for children 3 – 6 years of age. Siblings are always welcome! You'll hear a story, participate in an activity, and make a craft to take home with you. This program is designed to help young children understand the natural world around them. Parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program takes place at the Visitor Center.</p>
<p><u>Weekend Summit Series</u></p> <p><i>(A series of outdoor talks on the mountaintop.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Forest Before Us</i> • <i>Wild! Life on the Mountain</i> • <i>A "Peak" Back</i> 	<p>Join the Park Interpreter for our Weekend Summit Series. Several different nature and history topics are explored every weekend. All of the following talks take place at the summit next to the fire tower and are 30 to 45 minutes long. All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. The programs are free, but there is a \$5.00 fee to drive on the Auto Road to the summit (\$10.00 for non-Massachusetts vehicles).</p> <p>The Weekend Summit Series does not involve hiking.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible.</p> <p><u>The Forest Before Us:</u> Can't see the forest for the trees? We can help. Join us as we talk about forest growth from meadow to maturity, with a special focus on the unique old growth forests of Wachusett Mountain.</p> <p><u>Wild! Life on the Mountain:</u> Predator... or prey? Discover the fascinating lives of the "locals" as we talk about wildlife habitats, competition, and survival on Wachusett Mountain.</p>

<p><i>in Time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Great Hill Detectives</i> 	<p><u>A “Peak” Back in Time:</u> Join us as we journey through time to Wachusett Mountain’s past. We’ll explore the captivating history of the Summit House, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and so much more.</p> <p><u>Great Hill Detectives:</u> Investigate the mysteries of the mountain as we unwrap pieces of history and learn about their significance. Discover the secrets of “The Great Hill” we know as Wachusett Mountain. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole program... it’s up to you!</p>
<p>Get Tracking! Solving Animal Mysteries</p>	<p>You, too, can be an animal tracker! Join an expert animal tracker to learn the basics about the tracks and other clues that wild animals leave behind as they travel through the forest. This presentation will take place indoors; we will go outside briefly to learn how to make plaster casts of actual animal tracks. Although this program is geared for adults, children above the age of ten are welcome, but a parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program will meet at the Visitor Center.</p>
<p><u>Special Event</u> “Smokey Bear” Birthday Celebration August 12th</p>	<p>This special event will take place at the summit fire tower at Mount Wachusett State Reservation from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, August 12, 2017. Come learn about the history of “Smokey Bear,” the U.S. Forest Service character who has helped spread the message about preventing forest fires since 1945. You will also learn about the bear cub rescued from a forest fire in 1950 who became the real-life Smokey Bear for many years. Forest fire rangers will take a few visitors at a time up into the fire tower; the climb up the steps is steep and may not be suitable for people afraid of heights. There may also be a wait in line to have the fire ranger escort you to the top of the tower, but it will be worth the wait for this rare opportunity to learn what forest fire rangers do and to enjoy the spectacular view! Fire-prevention awareness promotional items will be available. Participants may either hike or drive to the summit. All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. The program is free, but there is a \$5.00 fee to drive on the Auto Road to the summit (\$10.00 for non-Massachusetts vehicles).</p>
<p><u>Special Event</u> Big Trees & Old Growth presentation</p>	<p>This special event will take place at the Mount Wachusett State Reservation Visitor Center from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Bob Leverett, the “old-growth guru” of the northeast, will present a lecture/slideshow about champion trees, including white pines over 170 feet tall in Massachusetts, and old-growth forest in Massachusetts, including trees found at Mount Wachusett that are hundreds of years old!</p> <p>Bob Leverett is the co-founder of the Native Tree Society, co-founder and President of Friends of</p>

	<p>Mohawk Trail State Forest, chairperson for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, the co-author of the American Forests Champion Tree-Measuring Guidelines handbook. He is also co-author of several books including the Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast.</p>
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